

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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SUBJ: NATO SPECIALIZATION STUDY: AIR FORCE SUB-GROUP

REFS: A.) FINAL REPORT OF THE AIR SUB-GROUP, 25 OCT 1973
(NOTAL) B.) STATE 204373 C.) NATO 5174 (NOTAL)
D.) NATO 5147 E.) STATE 213258 (NOTAL)

1. WE CONCUR WITH THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE AIR SUB-GROUP'S REPORT, REF A(PARA 25 OF THE LETTER AND PARA 47 OF THE STUDY). YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO JOIN IN THE SUB-GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS, REF A (PARA 26 OF THE LETTER AND PARA 48 OF THE STUDY).

2. WE WELCOME INCLUSION IN FINAL REPORT OF SHAPE RESERVATIONS AND DUTCH AMBASSADOR'S ASSURANCES OF NETHERLANDS' UNDIMINISHED DEFENSE EFFORT. US REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD INSIST ON RETENTION OF THE ABOVE IN LIGHT OF OUR SIMILAR CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN REF B.

3. WE CONCUR WITH THE DRAFT COVER REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN SUBPARAS 7A AND 7F OF REF C. LANGUAGE OF SUBPARA 7F, ENCOURAGING THE NETHERLANDS TO SPECIALIZE THEIR AIR FORCE'S MISSIONS WHILE "AIMING AT A REPLACEMENT OF ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT ON A ONE FOR ONE BASIS" IS ESPECIALLY APPROPRIATE. A ONE-FOR-ONE REPLACEMENT AIM NOT ONLY PROVIDES FLEXIBILITY FOR A

US REPLACEMENT CANDIDATE (PARA 5 OF REF D) BUT PLACES ONUS ON DUTCH TO DEMONSTRATE THAT A SMALLER REPLACEMENT RATIO STILL PROVIDES THE SAME OR GREATER CAPABILITY AS THEIR CURRENT F-104 FLEET. END FYI.

4. US REP SHOULD CONINUE TO RESERVE ON RECOMMENDATION WHICH ENCOURAGES NETHERLANDS TO BUY LANCE, SUBPARA 7E OF REF C, PENDING FURTHER WASHINGTON ANALYSIS.

5. REGARDING FUTURE SPECIALIZATION STUDIES BY NATO, SUBPARAS 7B, 7C AND 7D OF REF C, WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO CONTINUING WORK OF MARITIME FORCES, LOGISTICS AND LAND FORCES SUB-GROUPS IF MISSION BELIEVES THEIR EFFORTS WILL BE PRODUCTIVE. BUT US REP SHOULD POINT OUT TO STEERING GROUP THAT THE MOST EFFICIENT AND CONFIDENTIAL

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EQUITABLE PROPOSALS MAY WELL BE FORCE RATIONALIZATION, I.E., TRADE-OFFS CUTTING ACROSS SERVICE AND FUNCTIONAL (COMBAT OR SUPPORT) LINES. FYI. FOR REASONS STATED IN REF E WE SEE VIRTUE IN EXAMINING SPECIALIZATION AND FOCUSING ON RATIONALIZATION, BUT WE ARE NOT YET PREPARED TO TABLE OUR SPECIFIC PROPOSALS OTHER THAN THOSE NOW BEFORE THE LOGISTICS SUB-GROUP. HENCE IF US REP FINDS OTHER STEERING

GROUP MEMBERS RECEPTIVE TO US APPROACH, HE SHOULD
URGE THE ADOPTION OF LANGUAGE THAT PRESERVES THE
OPTION OF FORMING AD HOC STUDY GROUPS AFTER DECEMBER.
END FYI. KISSINGER

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